

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed July 21, 2003, Applicant amends his application and requests reconsideration. In this amendment no claims are canceled and claim 24 is added so that claims 1-24 remain pending.

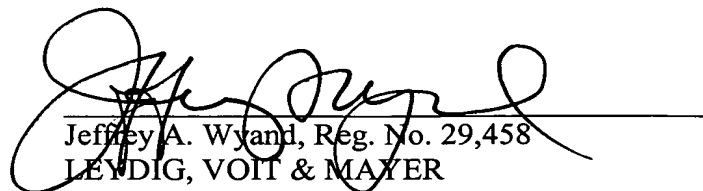
In this amendment claim 5 is divided into two claims. The limitation removed from original claim 5 now appears in claim 24.

The sole issue to be responded to from the Official Action of July 21, 2003 is a species election requirement. For the reasons discussed below, Applicant continues to traverse the species election requirement. Nevertheless, in order to advance the prosecution on the merits, Applicant elects the alleged species of Figures 17A-17C identified by the Examiner as pertaining to claims 2, 15, and 21. Claim 1 was identified as a generic claim. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 15, and 21 should be immediately examined. Upon allowance of claim 1, Applicant intends to rejoin to the prosecution claims 2-14 and 24. Upon allowance of claim 15, Applicant intends to rejoin to the prosecution claims 16-20. These rejoinders are to be made pursuant 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a).

The election is made with traverse because the inventor believes that additional claims are supported by what is alleged by the Examiner to be a species. It is the inventor's view that all of claims 2-14 and new claim 24 are supported by Figures 17A-17D and 18A-18D. In addition, with respect to claims 5-11, those claims are supported by Figure 2 and the other cited Figures, alone or in combination. Claims 12-14 are supported by Figure 7 alone or in combination with the other cited Figures. Therefore, at a minimum, the inventor requests that the Examiner reconsider the species election requirement and examine all of claims 1-14.

Prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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